

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF February 9, 2007 (DRAFT)

Prepared on November 21, 2006

ITEM NUMBER: X

**SUBJECT: Re-Issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements for California
Utilities Service, Monterey County – Order No. R3-2007-0008**

KEY INFORMATION

Location: 16625 Reservation Road (G17), Salinas, Monterey County
Type of Discharge: Secondary treated domestic wastewater
Permitted Flow: 300,000 gallons per day (gpd based on rated design capacity)
Average Flow: 214,000 gpd (30-day average)
Type of Treatment: Secondary with the option of disinfection
Disposal Method:
 Wastewater: Land application via overhead sprinklers
 Solid Wastes: Offsite disposal of biosolids at Monterey Regional Landfill
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 95-23
This Action: Adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements

SUMMARY

California Utilities Service, Inc. (hereafter referred to as the “Discharger”) owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, storage and disposal facility (hereafter referred to as the “Facility”). The Facility was historically owned and operated by Salinas Utilities Services and Toro Management Services until approximately 1996. The Facility has been in operation since 1965.

The Discharger provides wastewater collection and treatment services to residential and light commercial areas in the Toro area along Highway 68 south of Reservation Road. The Facility currently serves 1,114 connections primarily consisting of residential dwellings. Light commercial facilities served by the Facility include an elementary school, the Coral de Tierra Country Club, the Cypress Church, and a number of small business parks and office buildings.

The Facility is currently permitted under Waste Discharge Reclamation Requirements Order No. 95-23 issued to the Discharger by the Board on February 10, 1995. The existing waste discharge requirements Order is over 10 years old and is in need of revision to update requirements that are consistent with current regulations and policies. In addition, the Discharger is requesting the removal of the disinfection and weekly total coliform testing requirements contained within the existing Order. A requirement for disinfection and total coliform testing is not consistent with the location and nature of the land discharge.

PROPOSED ORDER

Order No. R3-2007-0008 (proposed Order) significantly updates the waste discharge requirements. The following discussion briefly

outlines the format of the proposed Order and significant changes. Findings of the proposed Order address the various aspects of the Facility and applicable regulations in detail and will not be repeated here. A discussion of the compliance history is not warranted as the Facility has remained in compliance with the existing Order with the exception of the violation of Standard Provisions associated with record keeping and the maintenance of monitoring equipment as noted in a notice of violation dated October 1, 2004.

The proposed Order is broken down as follows:

- Findings
- Prohibitions
- Specification
 - System Operation
 - Flow and Effluent Limitations
 - Groundwater Limitations
 - Nutrient Management Plan
 - Salts Management Program
 - Sanitary Sewer Overflows/Sewer System Management Plan Requirements
- Provisions

Significant changes to the proposed Order include:

- **Effluent Limitations** – Effluent limitations were added for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), nitrate, sodium, chloride, sulfate and boron. The effluent limitations consist of a combination of 30-day and 7-day average (arithmetic mean) values. The BOD and TSS effluent limitations consist of technology-based effluent limitations for secondary treatment¹. It should be noted that the prescribed technology-based BOD and TSS effluent limitations are promulgated for surface water discharges (NPDES permits). They are being utilized here to evaluate the Facility's ability to effectively stabilize the influent waste loading and treatment capacity. Although no effluent BOD or TSS data is available for the Facility, the proposed BOD and TSS effluent limitations are technologically achievable for the Facility treatment configuration. The effluent limitations for Total Dissolved Solids

(retained from previous permit), sodium, chloride, sulfate and boron are consistent with the Basin Plan water quality objectives. The 7-day average nitrate effluent limitation is consistent with the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 mg/L (as nitrogen); whereas the 30-day average nitrate effluent limitation of 8 mg/L is based on best professional judgment and intended to ensure the effluent consistently meets or exceeds the MCL. An effluent limitation for free chlorine residual was removed from the proposed Order (the former Order did not contain a monitoring requirement to verify this limitation).

- **Nutrient Management Plan** – Specific requirements were added to the proposed Order requiring the Discharger to develop and implement a nutrient management plan for the land application of wastewater to ensure it is applied at agronomic rates and will not result in the leaching of nitrogen to the groundwater basin.
- **Salt Management Plan** - Specific requirements were added to the proposed Order requiring the Discharger to develop and implement a salts management plan to document salt loading and to evaluate and implement reduction measures as practicable to reduce salt loading to the groundwater basin.
- **Sanitary Sewer Overflows/Sewer System Management Plan Requirements** – Requirements for the implementation of a sewer system management plan were added to the proposed Order to establish procedures to track, mitigate and prevent overflows from the Discharger's collection system.

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program requirements are broken down as follows:

- Water Supply Monitoring
- Influent Monitoring
- Effluent Monitoring
- Effluent Storage Pond and & Disposal Area Monitoring
- Solids/Biosolids Monitoring
- Reporting
- Provisions

¹ 40 CFR Part 133.102 contains BOD and TSS 30-day and 7-day average minimum technology based effluent limitations for secondary treatment of 30mg/L and 45 mg/L, respectively.

Significant changes to the proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program include:

- **Water Supply Monitoring** – Nitrate was added to water supply monitoring parameters.
- **Influent Monitoring** – Influent monitoring was added to the Monitoring and Reporting Program. The added influent monitoring parameters consist of influent flow, weekly pH; monthly BOD, TSS, and total nitrogen; and semiannual TDS, sodium, chloride, sulfate, and boron.
- **Effluent Monitoring** – Weekly monitoring of total coliform organisms, settleable solids (three times per week), bi-weekly dissolved oxygen, and monthly total Kjeldahl nitrogen were eliminated. Monthly monitoring of BOD, TSS, total nitrogen, and ammonia (nitrate monitoring was retained) were added to the effluent monitoring requirements. The monitoring frequency for pH was increased from quarterly to weekly.
- **Groundwater Monitoring** – Groundwater monitoring frequency was increased from a semiannual frequency to a quarterly frequency for depth to water, total nitrogen (in place of total Kjeldahl nitrogen, nitrate, TDS, sodium, chloride, sulfate, and boron).
- **Effluent Storage Pond & Disposal Area Monitoring** – The proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program requires the Discharger to monitor the effluent storage pond on a daily basis and record the depth and volume of stored effluent, and the volume of remaining available storage. The proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program also requires the Discharger to conduct daily visual monitoring of the land application area.
- **Solids/Biosolids Monitoring** – Annual biosolids monitoring for arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, and zinc were removed from the proposed Monitoring and Reporting Requirements. In place, the Discharger is required to submit copies of all biosolids analytical data required by other agencies and licensed disposal facilities for the previous year. In addition, the proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program requires the Discharger to

provide an annual report of the amount of solids generated at the facility, with a description of the treatment, and documentation of ultimate disposal.

- **Reporting Frequency** – the Discharger reporting frequency was reduced from monthly to quarterly. The Discharger is still required to submit annual reports per the Standard Provisions.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

These waste discharge requirements are for an existing facility and are exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21100, et. seq.) in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15301.

COMMENTS & RESPONSES

On December 21, 2006, the Central Coast Water Board notified the Discharger and interested parties of its intent to issue revised Waste Discharge Requirements for California Utilities Service and provided them with a copy of the proposed Order and an opportunity to submit written views and comments.

[THIS SECTION LEFT OPEN FOR COMMENTS]

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order No. R3-2007-0008 as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2007-0008
2. Draft Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Order No. R3-2007-0008
3. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 95-23 and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 95-23

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